

Falling Away

Paul's Prophecy of a Latter Days Falling Away from the Faith

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- We learned this week that the number one indicator of the last days would be a spirit of deception on the earth. In large part, this deception will result in last days falling away from the faith, wherein people who claim to be Christians will be led astray into false beliefs. What did we learn about the need to be diligent in guarding our minds, praying that we would be rooted and grounded in the faith, and resisting the Devil? What did you learn about the spiritual war that we're fighting as Believers?
- Pastor Joel mentioned a movement in evangelicalism called Deconstructionism. Some professing Believers are turning away from the faith they once held dear and are leaving Christianity. Deconstruction is the systematic dismantling of the things that we believe...and as we noted, it results in Deconversion. Do you agree or disagree that the deconstruction movement fits the description of the falling away mentioned by Paul in the scriptures? Do you know of any examples of people in your life who are deconstructing/have deconstructed their faith?
- We noted in our study that while a Christian cannot be demon possessed, he or she can be demon oppressed. Satan will try everything possible to discourage, distract, depress, or to derail you. Satan will even try to make you doubt the goodness of God if he can. He is a low down dirty dog who will kick us when we're down. What kind of power is available to us by our spiritual weapons? We mentioned three specific ones...The Word of God, The Blood of the Lamb, and The Word of Our Testimony? How exactly do these weapons work in spiritual combat?
- Paul taught us that we can spot a demonic doctrine by looking for three specific things. First, a demonic doctrine will present falsehoods as though they were true. Second, a demonic doctrine will always contain a level of compromise or sin or be presented by a person of compromise or sin. Third, a demonic doctrine will claim authority greater than the Word of God and will seek to undermine the authority of the Bible. Using these criteria, have you seen such doctrines in your own faith journey? Would you be open to share your experiences?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Matthew 24:3-14
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- Paul warned us against allowing our minds to “give heed” to deceiving spirits. I wonder if there is a spirit that has been seducing you, luring you in its direction? What would God have you do with those thoughts in light of our study this week? What shall we replace them with once we take them captive?
- You may be among the large group of believers who haven’t thought about warfare as a daily spiritual endeavor. We can get so used to doing life in the physical that we become oblivious to what is happening in the spiritual. Perhaps God would call you to think spiritually about the things happening in your life this week! Share with the group what God is putting on your heart.